

Burnley Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. H. J. ROBINSON

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1939.



Also Report of MR. FRANK HEWITT

Surveyor to the Council

Burnley Rural District Council

Annual Report of Dr. H. J. ROBINSON

(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH)

For the Year ended 31st December, 1939

Also the report of Mr. FRANK HEWITT,
Surveyor to the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report for the year ended the 31st December, 1939, on the health and sanitary condition of the District.

The Minister of Health, in Circular 2067, dated the 19th July, 1940, requests that during wartime the usual full report should be dispensed with and that interim reports only, confined to essential and urgent matters, should be made.

My report, therefore, this year will be very brief.

The general health of the District was again very good, and there were no causes of sickness or invalidity which were specially noteworthy.

Vital Statistics, relating to births and deaths, issued by the Registrar-General, have not yet been received, but our own local records do not indicate any great changes from those of previous years.

The chief causes of death—as in previous years—were heart disease and cancer. Deaths from cancer numbered 25, which is about the average number over a period of 10 years.

Infant Deaths, under one year of age, were 11, as compared with 8 in 1938 and an average of 12·2 in the previous 10 years.

Infectious Disease cases were slightly more numerous than in 1938—chiefly scarlet fever and pneumonia cases—but do not call for any special comment.

As regards the sanitary condition of the District, several improvements were effected, chief of which are the following :—

- (a) **Sewerage.** The sewerage of Higham was completed and all the house drains were connected up. The total cost of the scheme was £5,842. A number of privy closets have been converted to fresh water closets, but owing to the war the work is proceeding very slowly.

- (b) **Housing.** Considerable improvements to a block of 8 houses at Bury Row, Sabden, were carried out under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act. The total cost of the improvements was about £1,800, towards which there would be a Government grant of £800.

Two Council housing schemes comprising 10 houses at Sabden and 4 at Briercliffe were completed. Other small schemes for Higham and Fence were in course of preparation when war broke out, but these had to be postponed.

General repairs were effected to a large number of houses in various parts of the district.

- (c) **Improvements to Farm Buildings.** Particulars of the improvements carried out are given in the body of the report and the list indicates the careful attention given to farm inspection.
- (d) **Meat Inspection.** Constant attention has been given this important branch of public health work, and an adequate and efficient inspection of slaughterhouses and butchers' shops has been maintained.

Further particulars are given in the report which, though much abridged, is drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 1961, on the contents and arrangement of annual reports.

Burnley Rural District Council

YEAR 1939.



Chairman : COUNCILLOR D. CREEARS, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR F. LEAVER.



COUNCILLORS :

Altham : Herbert Jessop, Pasture Gate, Altham.

Barley : William James Martin, Hoarstones Cote, Fence.

Blacko : Wilson Wallbank, Gisburn Road, Blacko.

Briercliffe : Fred Leaver, 7, Queen Street, Briercliffe.

Cliviger : William Alderson, c.c., Brookside, Cliviger.

Dunnockshaw : John E. Riley, 4, Prospect Terrace, Dunnockshaw.

Foulridge : Charles Spencer, 10, Skipton Road, Foulridge.

Goldshaw Booth : Reuben Burton, Burton Lodge, Brierfield.

Habergham Eaves : C. Longbottom, Small Hazels Farm, Habergham Eaves.

Hapton : Tom Clark, 115, Manchester Road, Hapton.

Higham : James Stuttard, J.P., Whitehill, Read.

Ightenhill : Frederick Crossley, J.P., Stockbridge House, Padiham.

Old Laund Booth : Hezekiah Proctor, J.P., "Holly Mount," Fence.

Read : David Creears, J.P., "Castlebank," Straits Lane, Read.

Reedley Hallows : Richard Tootell, 22, Reedley Grove, Reedley.

Roughlee Booth : Joseph B. Hodgkins, c.c., "Sherwood," Fence.

Sabden : Thomas Hargreaves, 15, Whalley Road, Sabden.

Simonstone and Northtown : Frank F. Hitchen, "Beacons-holme," Simonstone.

Worsthorne - with - Hurstwood : Alfred Henry Pickles, J.P., "Bryn Hey," Worsthorne.

OFFICIALS :—

Clerk—H. E. PURTON.

Medical Officer of Health—H. J. ROBINSON,
B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer and Surveyor—F. HEWITT, F.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors—A. JOHNSON (Chief), S. GRIMSHAW.

Accountant and Rating Officer—S. T. FOSTER, A.L.A.A.

Council Offices—18, NICHOLAS STREET, BURNLEY.

Public Health Department—20, THOMAS STREET, BURNLEY.

(A) STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

II.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	39,841
Population—Estimated, mid-year, 1938	...	...	...	...	...	17,740
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1939	...	...	...	...	...
according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	6,106
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£115,442
Sum represented by a 1d. rate (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	£457

The chief occupations of the people are cotton weaving, coal mining, and dairy farming,

There was a definite improvement in the cotton industry during the year, and trade conditions generally were better than for several years past.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Not yet received.

(B) GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

No changes or developments from previous year.

(C)—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER SUPPLY.

Particulars of the supply to each village have been given in previous reports, and there were no important changes or developments during the year.

The supplies are constant. There was no shortage, and the quality—on the whole—was satisfactory.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Two samples—one from Read and one from Newchurch-in-Pendle—were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were fairly satisfactory, but as a precautionary measure the reservoirs at both places were cleaned out.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES.

Six samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 3 of them were unsatisfactory. Alternative private supplies were provided for two of these unsatisfactory supplies and the cause of pollution removed in the other.

At Clifton Terrace, Cliviger, a branch was laid from the public main and 17 houses were connected thereto in place of a private supply which was insufficient for normal requirements.

Also, at Quakers Bridge, Reedley ; Nelson Corporation extended their water main to supply 10 houses which had an inadequate private supply.

Approximate number of houses in the district	.....	6106
Do.	with piped supplies from public mains	5064
Do.	with private piped supplies	927
Do.	with supplies not piped ...	115

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No special action was taken to check the pollution of rivers or streams in the area. In those parts of the Rural District where there are no sewers available, private septic tanks and filters are required for all new property, but until all the villages are sewered there is bound to be some pollution taking place.

The general powers of the Rivers Pollution Act are administered by the new Lancashire Rivers Board which, on the 1st of April, 1939, took over the duties of the former Ribble Joint Committee and the Mersey & Irwell Joint Committee.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Higham sewerage scheme, commenced in May, 1938, was completed during the year and all the drain houses were connected up. Closet conversion is being dealt with, but progress in the work is very slow owing to the war.

Sewerage schemes are needed at Cliviger, Dunnockshaw, Briercliffe (Lane Bottom area), Newchurch-in-Pendle, Simonstone, (Clough area) Ightenhill, Reedley Hallows (Ainsdale Avenue and Quaker Bridge) Barley, and Roughlee.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following statement shows the number of closet conversions carried out during the year and the preceding 5 years :—

	1939.	1934-1938.
Waste water closets to fresh water closets	2	13
Privies to fresh water closets	2	—
Privies to pail closets	1	11
Pail closets to fresh water closets ...	21	44

Fresh water closets are required for all new property ; also the provision of private septic tanks and filters where there are no sewers.

Pail closets are emptied weekly by the Council's workmen.

NUMBER AND TYPE OF CLOSETS IN THE DISTRICT.

Approximate number of tank closets	437
Do. pail closets	606
Do. waste water closets	2400
Do. frsh water closets ...	2367

The Council does not contribute towards the cost of conversion.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The substitution of dustbins for ashpits has been completed in all the built up areas throughout the District, and ashpits are now only in use at farms and isolated cottages.

Dustbins are emptied weekly throughout the District and the work is carried out entirely by our own workmen. The chief sanitary inspector supervises the work.

The method of disposal is by tipping.

Two hired covered motor wagons and 3 horses and carts belonging to the Council are engaged on the work.

PARTICULARS AS TO NUMBER OF DUSTBINS, ETC. :—

Number of dustbins substituted for ashpits during the year:-	none
Number of dustbins substituted for ashpits during five years 1934-1938	1740
Number of dustbins in District (approx.)	5810
Number of ashpits in District (approx.)	200

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The several townships in the District have been regularly inspected.

Forty-four complaints were received. These were immediately investigated and dealt with.

Number of visits to premises	695
Number of defects or nuisances found	218
Number of notices issued—(a) Informal	209
(b) Statutory	12

MATTERS DEALT WITH :—

Defective dustbins renewed	81
Defective sanitary pails renewed	50
Private cesspools cleansed	8
Defective drains	5
Defective sink waste pipes...	11
Defective eaves gutters	4
Blocked waste water closets	7
Disused ashpits pulled down	12
Defective water service pipe (private)	1
Defective closet tippers repaired	9
New drain laid from piggeries	1
Accumulations of garbage, builders rubbish, etc.	10
Farm manure tanks overflowing	3
Other nuisances	9

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SHOPS.

Action taken under provisions of :—

(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences :—

Number of shops inspected	49
Action taken	None necessary.

- (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to condition in offices, etc.

No action taken.

CAMPING SITES.

- (a) Number of sites in the District which were used for camping purposes during 1939 One
- (b) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by local authority under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 None
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the district at one time during the summer season, 1939 36

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No special action was taken with regard to smoke abatement.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

No changes or developments during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Fire Escapes :— An inspection was made of all the factories in the district in connection with the means of escape in case of fire, and several improvements were obtained.

Number of inspections and re-inspections	...	...	38
Number of certificates issued	...	...	23

Sanitary Conditions :— The sanitary conditions were also inspected, and several improvements were effected in the lighting arrangements of the conveniences, fixing of doors, cleansing, etc.

Number of inspections and re-inspections		...	...	38
		No. of		No.
		Defects		Removed
Sanitary Conveniences	Defects found :—			
	Want of cleanliness	...	3	3
	Defective doors or fastenings.	6		6
	No proper lighting			
	arrangements	...	6	6
		Closets converted to separate		
		fresh water flush closets	15	15

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

No action was taken with regard to tents, vans, sheds, etc., during the year. We have no byelaws dealing with these or similar structures.

SCHOOLS.

There are 21 public elementary schools in the District.

The chief sanitary requirement at several schools is the provision of water closets in place of pail closets.

The water supply generally is satisfactory.

No school had to be closed for the purpose of preventing the spread of infectious disease.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No case dealt with during the year.

(D) HOUSING.

During the year 37 houses were erected in the following townships :—

Briercliffe	...	...	...	4
Cliviger	...	...	...	8
Habergham Eaves	...	...	...	1
Read	...	...	...	3
Higham	...	...	...	2
Sabden	...	...	...	10
Worsthorne	...	...	...	8
Old Laund Booth	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				37
				<hr/>

(a) STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the Year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	37
(i) By the Local Authority...	14
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	23
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	14
(ii) By other bodies or persons	—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	203
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(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	67
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation...					1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	73
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—					
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	54
3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—					
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...				...	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...				2

Some of the repairs effected were of a substantial nature and comprised the re-slating of roofs, provision of white glazed kitchen sinks, handrails fixed in staircases, relaying of kitchen and bedroom floors, repairs to windows and doors, pointing of house walls, etc.

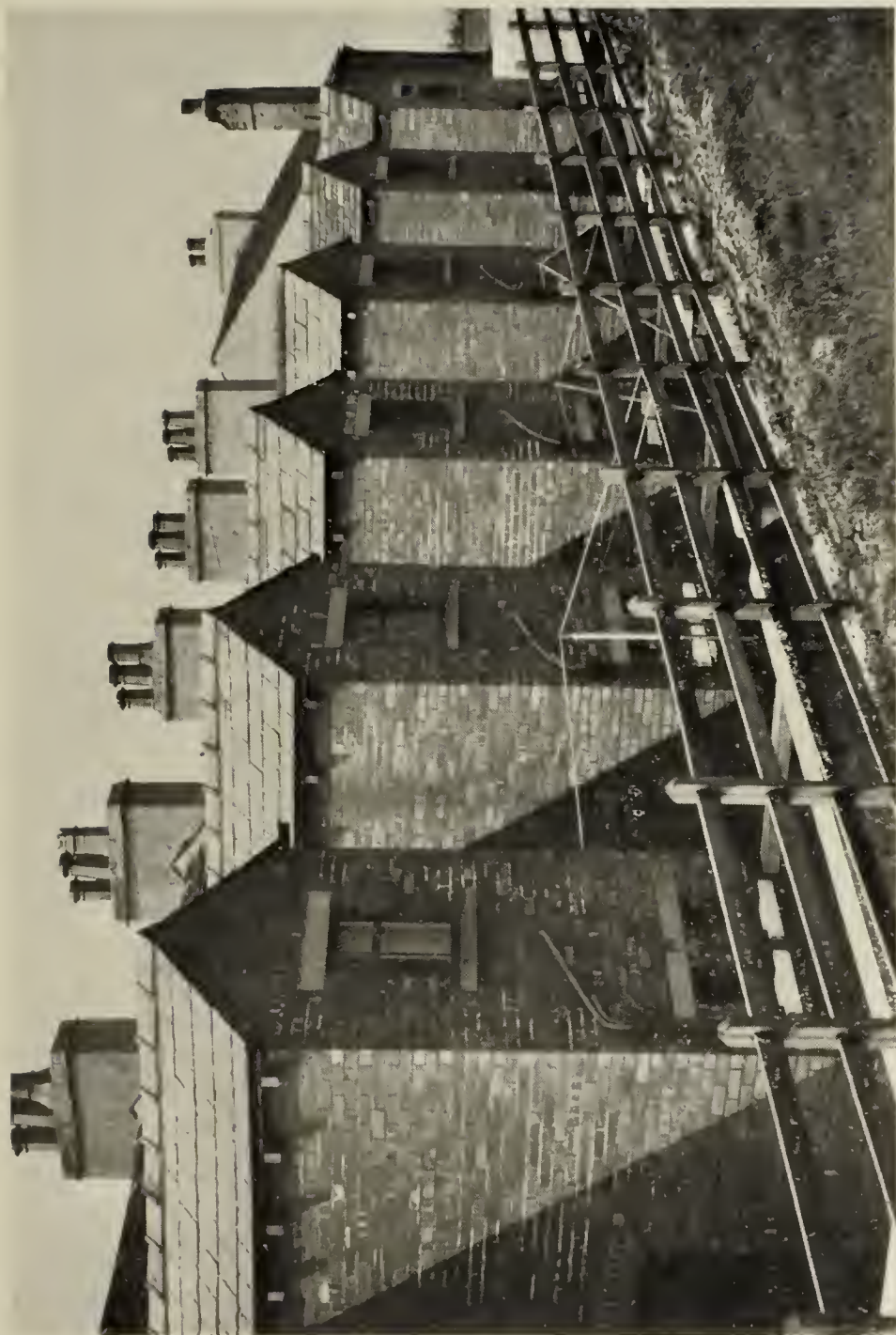
A block of 8 houses at Bury Row, Sabden, was dealt with under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926, and considerable improvements were carried out ; *e.g.* high ground behind the houses was excavated and a separate backyard to each house was provided; a wing was added to each house and contained a W.C., coal-house and passage on the ground floor and a bathroom on the first floor. The interiors were practically re-modelled : old stone winding stairs were taken out of the sculleries and new stairs fixed facing the front doors, windows were enlarged, new fire-ranges fixed and hot water systems installed, new modern doors were provided, and white glazed sinks were fixed in the kitchens. The fronts of the houses were pebble-dashed, and a block of dilapidated pail closets was demolished.

RE-CONDITIONING OF 8 COTTAGES AT BURY ROW, SABDEN



12a

REAR VIEW BEFORE ALTERATIONS



SIMILAR VIEW AFTER ALTERATIONS

The total cost of the scheme was about £1,900, towards which there was a Government grant of £800.

The conditions attached to the granting of State assistance ensures that the rents of the cottages will be kept low and that the cottages will be let to working class people only.

(E) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of farms, cowkeepers, etc., in the district.

Dairy farms	...	...	...	...	390
Cowkeepers (including dairy farms)					390
Producer—retailers	...	...	...		237
Wholesalers, butter makers, etc.	...				153

Number of inspections made during the year ... 609

Notices served requiring structural alterations to farm buildings, and as to cleanliness, etc. ... 124

Improvements carried out :—

BARLEY :—

Overhouses Farm ... New dairy erected.

BLACKO :—

Hollin Farm Cowshed floor concreted ;
Ceiling raised ;
Additional windows provided.

BRIERCLIFFE :—

Proctor Cote Farm ... Cowshed walls cement-rendered ;
Yeomans Farm New dairy erected ;
Stoney Raiks Farm ... Cowshed walls cement-rendered.

CLIVIGER :—

Causeway Side Farm ... Cowshed walls cement-rendered ;
Hole House Farm ... Two cowshed floors concreted ;
Walls cement-rendered ;
Ceiling raised.
Overtown Farm Cowshed re-modelled ;
New dairy erected ;
Higher Red Lees Farm ... Cowshed walls cement-rendered
Channel deepened.

GOLDSHAW BOOTH :—

Saddlers Farm Cowshed floor concreted ;
Walls cement-rendered ;
New dairy provided.

HABERGHAM EAVES :—

Broadhead Farm	...	Cowshed floor concreted ; Walls cement-rendered ;
Higher Gibb Field	...	Dairy floor concreted; Boskins repaired.

HAPTON :—

Barley Green Farm	...	Stalls in cowshed concreted ;
Eaves Barn Farm	...	Stalls concreted.

HIGHAM :—

Sager Hill Farm	...	Cowshed floor relaid in concrete; Additional windows provided.
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IGHTENHILL :—

Top O'th Close Farm	...	Cowshed floor concreted ; Walls cement-rendered ; Ceiling raised ; New windows fixed.
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FOULRIDGE :—

Great House Farm	...	New cowshed built to hold 8 cows.
Hey Farm	...	New cowshed built to hold 12 cows.
Hey Fold Farm	...	Stalls in cowshed concreted.
Sandhole Farm	...	Additional windows provided ; New dairy built.
Moss House Farm	...	Cowshed windows enlarged.

OLD LAUND BOOTH :—

Greenbank Farm	...	Floors of two cowsheds relaid; Additional windows provided.
Higher Old Laund Farm		Floors of two cowsheds relaid; Walls cement-rendered ; New milk-house provided.
Wheatley Laithe Farm	...	Cowshed floor concreted ; Drain inlet removed from inside the cowshed.
Harpers Farm	...	Cowshed floor relaid ; Ceiling raised ; Additional windows provided; Walls cement-rendered ; New dairy built.

REEDLEY HALLOWS :—

New Laund Farm	...	Floors of two cowsheds relaid.
Moor Isles	...	Cowshed floors concreted ; Additional windows provided ; New dairy built ;
Inghams Farm	...	Defective cowshed floor repaired.

WORSTHORNE :—

Rowley Farm	...	New dairy provided.
Lower Bottin Farm	...	Cowshed floor relaid in concrete Walls cement-rendered.

In addition to the above, considerable improvements were carried out at Read Hall Farm, Read, voluntarily, by the owner ; *e.g.* a new cowshed to hold 36 cows was built, another cowshed for 23 cows was re-modelled, and a modern dairy was erected. This farm is now one of the most up-to-date farms in our district.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

The quality of meat sold in the District is very good, and the shops have been found clean and well-maintained.

There were no cases of food poisoning reported.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND CARCASSES CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding Cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed ...	817	163	38	7709	112
No. inspected ...	No record kept.				
All diseases except tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	1	4	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	No record kept.				
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcase condemned ...	—	4	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	No record kept.				

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

The County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and deal with adulteration of food, etc.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Examinations are carried out at the Burnley Municipal Laboratory. No food has been sent for examination during the year.

(e) NUTRITION.

No special action has been taken.

(f) SHELL-FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

**(F) PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

GENERAL.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases was slightly higher than that of the previous year, but was about the average for the previous 5 years.

There were no epidemics.

Discretion is used in the removal of cases to hospital and is not pressed for if there are proper facilities in the home for nursing and isolation.

The hospital accommodation is, however, used to the best advantage ; *e.g.* during the year use was made of the hospital for the treatment of a number of child evacuees suffering from scabies and impetigo.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The number of specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Burnley, from our district during the year were :—

	Total	Negative-	Positive
Sputum (T.B.)	10	10	—
Swabs (Diphtheria)	51	48	3
Faeces (Enteric)	2	2	—
Blood (Widal)	1	1	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Arrangements have been made with neighbouring local authorities for the immunisation of rural children at their clinics. The number of children immunised during the year was:—

(a) pre-school children...	...	5
(b) school children	...	13

Treatment in all the above cases was carried at the Burnley Clinic.

The prophylactic used was T.A.M.

No post-Schick tests were taken.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shews the number of cases of infectious diseases (except Tuberculosis) notified during the year, compared with the numbers notified in the preceding five years:—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Smallpox...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	58	20	17	28	19	27
Diphtheria	12	14	12	15	10	11
Enteric fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	20	9	24	7	17
Encephalitis lethargica	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	1	6	2
Puerperal pyrexia	5	—	3	2	3	3
Acute polio-myelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	—	(— not notifiable			—)	2

There was no excessive number in any of the above diseases and further comment on them is unnecessary.

OTHER DISEASES.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, Diarrhoea (children under 2 years).—Chickenpox and Diarrhoea are not notifiable in our District. Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable in October, 1939, under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939. Up to the end of the year only 2 cases of Whooping Cough had been notified.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1939.

The following analysis of cases of infectious diseases notified, and deaths therefrom, under the various age groups, will perhaps be of interest.

Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Hospital.		Total Deaths.	
	Total cases at all ages	Years.									Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District			
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35			35-45		45-65	65 & over
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	27	1	1	2	1	13	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	†12	—
Diphtheria ...	11	—	1	1	—	4	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	*10	1
Enteric fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia (primary & influenza)	17	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	4	1	1
Puerperal pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Diseases :—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(not notifiable)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tonsillitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Impetigo ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	+8	—
Scabies ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	+5	—
Other ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	68	3	1	4	1	21	7	7	8	2	5	6	45	2	

† Includes 3 S.F. + Measles
 * :: 2 Carriers
 ‡ ‡ Evacuees

Cancer.—The number of deaths from cancer was 25, four less than in the previous year.

The average number of deaths for the decennial period 1929-1938 was 23·8.

Localisation of the disease :—

FEMALES :—Stomach 3 ; Breast 2 ; Uterus 1 ; Ovaries 2 ;
Colon 3 ; Vulva 1 .

MALES :—Larynx 2 ; Lip and neck glands 1 ; Bladder 1 ; Liver
and Stomach 1 ; Prostate gland 2 ; Gall bladder 1 ;
Oesophagus 1 ; Testicle 1 ; Pancreas 1 ; Tongue 1 ;
Skin and Lungs 1.

SUMMARY OF DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

	15-20	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	Over 75
Males ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	3	2
Females	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	4	1	3	1

DEATHS DURING PAST 10 YEARS.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Males ...	12	12	6	12	7	9	10	17	14	13
Females	13	16	10	8	15	15	18	11	15	12
Total ...	25	28	16	20	22	24	28	28	29	25

DEATH RATE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Year.	Cancer Deaths.	Total number of Deaths (all causes).	Rate per 100 deaths.
1930	25	213	11·7
1931	28	274	10·2
1932	16	210	7·6
1933	20	228	8·8
1934	22	212	10·4
1935	24	240	10·0
1936	28	223	12·5
1937	28	241	11·6
1938	29	182	15·9
1939	25	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of primary notifications received from medical practitioners on Form 'A'	Total.	Non-Pulmonary.	
		Pulmonary.	Pulmonary
...	14	9	5
Un-notified cases (obtained from Death Returns	—	—	—
Total	14	9	5

Localisation of the Disease :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	4	9
Glands of Neck ...	1	4	5
	6	8	14

Occupation of Patients :—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Housewives ...	2	—
Cotton Weavers ...	1	2
Tea Merchant...	1	—
Student ...	1	—
Machinist ...	1	—
At School ...	—	2
Motor Driver ...	1	—
Office Clerk ...	1	—
Saw Mill Worker ...	1	—
Infant ...	—	1
	9	5

The following table shews the age periods of new cases and of deaths in the area :—

Age. Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5	4	1	4	2	3	—	—
Totals	9		5		5		—	

TABLE.

Comparative Statement of Cases Notified during past 10 years.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.		
Year.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
1930	6	5	4	2	17
1931	7	7	6	7	27
1932	8	5	4	4	21
1933	6	4	2	7	19
1934	9	13	4	4	30
1935	4	6	2	5	17
1936	7	7	1	3	18
1937	4	8	2	3	17
1938	1	7	4	6	18
1939	5	4	1	4	14

The notification of the disease by medical practitioners is very satisfactorily carried out, and no case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify has occurred.

There were no non-notified cases amongst the five deaths which occurred.

There does not appear to be any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation.

Nine patients were sent to various sanatoria for treatment, and 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 non-pulmonary were reported by the County Tuberculosis Officer as having recovered from the disease.

A copy of each notification is sent to the County Consultant Tuberculosis Officer and to the County Tuberculosis Health Visitor. The Health Visitor furnishes a report on the environmental conditions of the cases she visits, and, if necessary, an investigation is made.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade ; or under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1940.

Burnley Rural District Council

Annual Report 1939

SUMMARY

The outbreak of war on September 3rd. brought to a stop schemes of road improvement, private street works, housing, slum clearance, sewerage and building development.

Water Supply.

Briercliffe main was coupled up with Burnley Corporation's main and Foulridge main was coupled up with Colne Corporation's main. The primary object was for A.R.P. for fire-fighting purposes, but the village supplies will be augmented should it become necessary.

The electrically-operated plant at Thursden waterworks having proved thoroughly reliable the gas engine and Duplex pump were sold.

Four new service meters and 10 replacement meters were fixed. New mains were laid at **Cliviger, Habergham Eaves, Higham, Ightenhill, Read, Old Laund Booth** and **Sabden**.

No actual shortage of water occurred but at Read the flow to the Council's reservoir became so diminished that it was deemed advisable to supplement the supply from Padiham Urban District Council's main.

Maintenance works were done on the **Hapton** waterworks. All our reservoirs were emptied and cleaned out.

Sewerage.

The sewerage of **Higham** was completed in July at a cost of £5,842 and the extension of Padiham Council's sewer to Higham boundary added £444.

A new sewer costing £309 was laid at **Dunnockshaw** to safeguard the nearby reservoir, and a short length of sewer in the Brunshaw area of Cliviger.

Sewage Disposal Works.

Extensive repairs were executed to one of the distributors at **Sabden** sewage works and similar repairs are required to the other one. Certain works to reduce infiltration into Sabden sewers were done near Bull Bridge.

At **Blacko, Old Laund Booth** and **Worsthorne** the Lea recorders which measure the flow of sewage were thoroughly examined by the makers and adjustments and repairs done where necessary.

An additional septic tank and the completion of 3 sludge beds are required at **Worsthorne**, and the construction of a sewer at **Ightenhill** in abolition of the large septic tank is overdue.

Building.

Sixty-one plans were submitted of which 54 were passed and 7 rejected under the Byelaws.

The number of dwelling houses built was 39—the lowest figure since 1928.

New Byelaws were adopted relating to New Buildings and the revision of Byelaws relating to New Streets is now essential.

Housing and Slum Clearance.

The Council's housing scheme at **Briercliffe** (4 houses) was completed in March and that at **Sabden** (10 houses) in May. Drawings for further schemes were nearing completion when war broke out.

Plans, etc., in connection with Slum Clearance Schemes at **Higham** and **Fence** were prepared but unfortunately had to be shelved.

Town and Regional Planning.

Following a lead from the Ministry of Health it was decided to continue with the preparation of the Joint Scheme.

A large number of the 750 objections received to the Draft Scheme were dealt with, leaving some 300 still outstanding.

Under the Interim Development Order 457 applications for permission to develop were made to the Constituent Authorities, of which 197 were granted unconditionally, 222 subject to conditions, and 38 refused consent.

Under the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act 34 reports to the County Council were made ; 17 applications were consented to unconditionally, 11 conditionally and 6 were refused permission.

The revision of all the ordnance sheets has been completed and work is proceeding on the Final Scheme.

Bridges and Culverts.

The 4-ft. 8-in. box culvert at **Thorneyholme, Roughlee** was reconstructed, as were a 30-in. and an 18-in. culvert under **Whalley Road, Sabden**.

A number of SURFACE WATER SEWERS having an aggregate length of 1,108 yards were laid under various roads in the district.

A tender was let by the County Council for the widening of Brownside Bridge as part of the Rural Council's scheme for widening Pike Hill, but was cancelled owing to the war.

Private Street Works.

Plans and apportionments in connection with the proposed making up of 3 streets in Cliviger, 7 in Worsthorne, 2 in Read and 2 in Simonstone were in preparation when the war intervened.

Highways.

After vicissitudes and delays extending over many years the scheme for widening Pike Hill Road, Worsthorne, received the sanction of the Lancashire County Council and the Ministry of Transport, but just as tenders were about to be advertised for war broke out and the scheme was perforce abandoned.

Another very desirable improvement which had to be dropped was that for widening Whalley Road at Simonstone cross-roads.

The only improvements carried out by the Council were the widening of Salterford Lane and Hurstwood Lane, Worsthorne, at their junction (£123) and the widening on one side of Red Lees Road, Cliviger, in front of Ormerod House (£667)—the other side having been widened in the previous year.

A portion of Burnley Road, Worsthorne, was reconstructed and remodelled, and at Briercliffe the worn setts on a length of Burnley Road were carpetted with bitumenous macadam.

Drainage of the embankment alongside Barley New Road necessitated an expenditure of £105 but further slipping is anticipated and a scheme to cost £2,500 has been prepared.

The County Council completed the widening of Blackburn Road, Simonstone, near Altham bridge, and of a further length at Sykeside bridge. Good progress was made with the widening of part of Manchester Road at Dunnockshaw.

Considerable works were carried out by the Rural District Council and the County Council in resurfacing, camber reduction, superelevation, retaining walls, etc.; a number of footpath works (kerbing, paving) etc., were done, and some 21 miles (204,700 super. yards) of road were treated with tar or bitumen at a cost of 4·37d. per yard. The County Council spent £315 on similar work.

The Rural District Council spent £4,601 on Ordinary Maintenance of roads, £7,068 on Special Maintenance, £3,728 on Tar-spraying, £771 on Widenings and £156 on Parish Footpaths and Footbridges. Total £16,324. In addition £8,565 was expended by the County Council on Classified Roads in the Rural District.

Openings in roads made by gas, electricity, water, etc., authorities, builders and others amounted to 149, necessitating the making good of 938 square yards of roads and footpaths.

Air Raid Precautions and Civil Defence.

Works under this head were so numerous—especially after the outbreak of hostilities—that only the briefest of summaries can be given. They included: Black-out tests; facilitation of the movement of traffic on darkened roads by white line markings, painting of kerbs, whitening of posts, trees, projections, etc.; training of officials and workmen in shoring, etc., of buildings, decontamination, repair of roads, mains, etc., damaged by bombs; anti-gas measures; incendiary bomb control; erection of gas-detector boards, training hut, etc.; arrangements for the detection of gas and for dealing with unexploded bombs; commencement of the erection of a Cleansing and Decontamination Station at Worsthorpe; fixing of additional fire hydrants; equipment of all squads; arrangements under the Essential Buildings and Plant (Repair of War Damage) Act and the Housing (Emergency Powers) Act for dealing with buildings damaged by enemy action; the preparation of large wall maps for use at the control centre and of numerous maps and plans for wardens, police, officials, fire brigades, etc.; further surveys and estimates for the suggested adaption of cellars, basements, jinny-roads, etc., as shelters; drawings, etc., submitted to the Home Office for public air raid shelters for persons caught on the streets during an air raid; inspection of private shelters; sand-bagging of control centre, first aid party depots, water and sewage pumping stations, etc.; protection of windows in same; drawing up of a mutual aid scheme with adjoining authorities; shoring up of control room and installation of air-conditioning plant; details, etc., for auxiliary fire brigades; temporary sheds and latrines when receiving evacuated children, etc.

Miscellaneous.

In addition to the usual routine duties carried out by the Council a considerable number of electricity cables, gas mains, water mains, etc., were laid by various undertakers.

The purchase of the house "Oakleigh" at Reedley Hallows for conversion into Council Offices was completed.

Two engineering assistants joined the Army and one temporary assistant took their place.

Councillor Tom Pierson, representative of Habergham Eaves on the Council since 1925, died in January.

At the end of the year the war was still in progress. It is, therefore, impossible to forecast works for 1940—but Air Raid Precautions and Defence Duties must inevitably be given first consideration and even routine work will be curtailed owing to shortage of staff.

FRANK HEWITT,

June, 1940.

Engineer and Surveyor.

